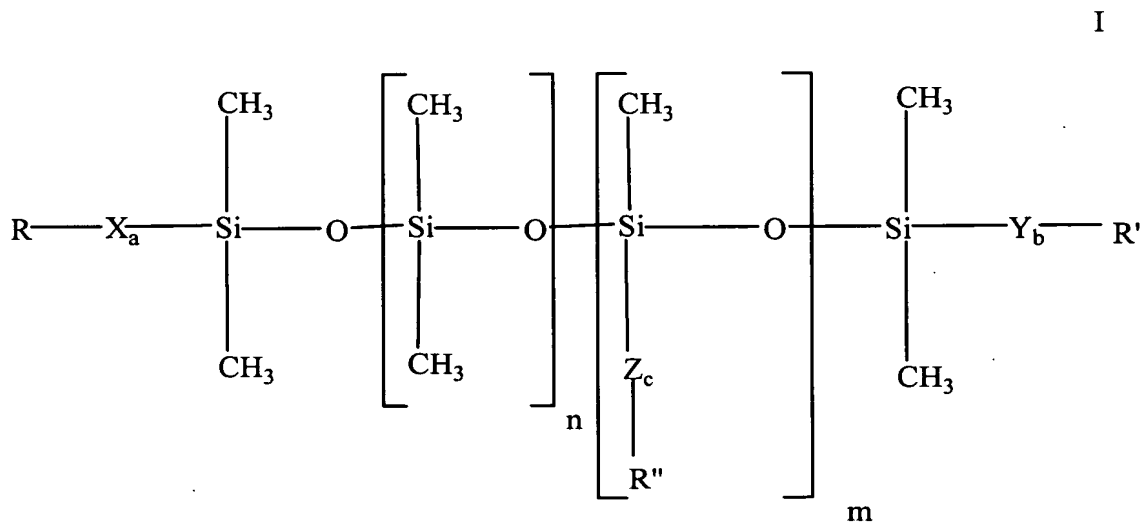


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the drying shrinkage of a cementitious composition to which water has been added and the composition placed, comprising adding to the composition prior to placement at least one siloxane compound that is at least one of liquid ~~and~~ or soluble in at least one of water ~~and~~ or aqueous alkali.
2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, in which the siloxane compound is selected from those that correspond to the general formula I:



where m and n are independently from 1-2000, ~~preferably from 1-500 and more preferably from 1-200~~, a, b, and c are independently either 0 or 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

-O-;

-O-(CH₂)₁₋₃₀-, this moiety being at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or containing at least one ring;

$-(\text{CH}_2)_{1-30}-$, this moiety being at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or containing at least one ring;

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$;

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CHOH}-\text{CH}_2-$;

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CHOH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$; and

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CHOH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}-$;

and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen, C_{1-100} alkyl, C_{6-30} aryl, C_{7-30} aralkyl; C_{7-30} alkaryl; C_{1-30} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-200} polyhydroxyalkyl; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{1-15} oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that~~ wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C_{1-30} aminoalkyl; polyiminopolyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C_{2-15} alkylene units; polyiminopolyoxyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C_{2-15} oxyalkylene units; C_{3-30} quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C_{4-30} betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with ~~any suitable~~ at least one cation; C_{4-30} polycarboxyalkyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; epoxide group; glycidyl; acrylate; C_{1-30} ester; polyester consisting of from 2-200 C_{2-15} diacid and diester monomer units; and esters of inorganic acids, wherein all alkyl chains ~~being~~ are at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or ~~comprising~~ comprise at least one ring.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the siloxane compound of formula I is such that a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

$-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_{1-30}-$, this moiety being linear or branched;

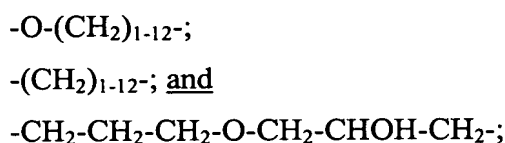
$-(\text{CH}_2)_{1-30}-$, this moiety being linear or branched; and

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CHOH}-\text{CH}_2-$;

and R, R' and R'' are independently ~~selected from~~ at least one of hydrogen; hydroxy; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C_{2-6} oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that~~ wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be

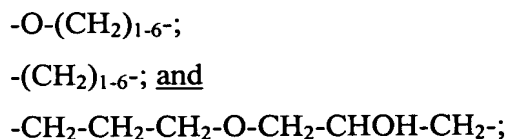
present at least two of each unit; C₃₋₃₀ quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C₄₋₃₀ betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; glycidyl; and acrylate; all alkyl chains being at least one of linear, branched ~~and~~ or comprising at least one ring.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 2, in which the siloxane compound of Formula I is such that m and n are independently selected from 1-200, a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from



and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen; hydroxy; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C₂₋₆ oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that~~ wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C₃₋₃₀ quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C₄₋₃₀ betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; glycidyl; and acrylate; wherein all alkyl chains ~~being capable of being~~ may be linear or branched.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 2, in which the siloxane compound of Formula I is such that m is from 1-30 and n is from 1-100, a, b, and c are all 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

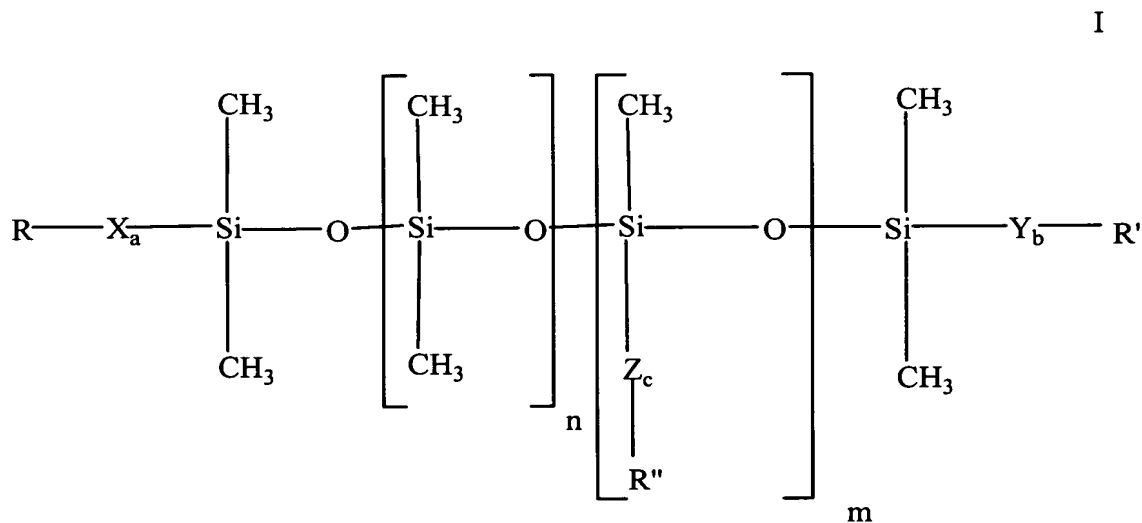


and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen; hydroxy; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C₂₋₆ oxyalkylene units, ~~with the proviso that~~ wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall

be present at least two of each unit; C₃₋₂₀ quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C₄₋₁₀ betaine and carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; all alkyl chains ~~being capable of being~~ may be linear or branched.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, in which finely-divided silica is added to the cementitious composition.
7. (Currently Amended) A cementitious composition with reduced drying shrinkage, prepared by [[a]] the method according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1.
8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cementitious composition according to claim 7, in which ~~the composition~~ the composition additionally contains finely-divided silica.
9. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein m and n are independently from 1 to 500.
10. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein m and n are independently from 1 to 200.
11. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein R and R' are methyl or ethyl.
12. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein R" comprises ethylene oxide – propylene oxide copolymers of from 10 to 100 units.
13. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein more than one type of R" moiety is present in the siloxane compound of Formula I.
14. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the siloxane compound is added to the cementitious composition by at least one of:
 - a. being incorporated into the cementitious composition before the addition of water; or
 - b. added to the cementitious composition when it is mixed with water prior to placement.
15. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of siloxane compound added to the cementitious composition is from 0.05% to 20% by weight of the cement.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein finely-divided silica is added to the cementitious composition separately for the siloxane compound or it may be incorporated into the siloxane compound.
17. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of finely-divided silica added is up to 20% by weight of the siloxane.
18. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein an emulsifier is incorporated into the siloxane compound.
19. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein at least one of at least one of plasticizers, superplasticisers, antifreeze agents, pigments, air-entraining agents, accelerators, retarders or reinforcing fibres that are comprised of at least one of metal, glass or polymer is added to the cementitious composition.
20. (New) The cementitious composition according to claim 7, in which the siloxane compound is selected from those that correspond to the general formula I:



where m and n are independently from 1-2000, a, b, and c are independently either 0 or 1 and X, Y and Z are selected from

-O-;

-O-(CH₂)₁₋₃₀-, this moiety being at least one of linear, branched or containing at least one ring;

-(CH₂)₁₋₃₀-, this moiety being at least one of linear, branched or containing at least one ring;

-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-;

-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-;

-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-O-; and

-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N-;

and R, R' and R'' are independently selected from at least one of hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀₀ alkyl, C₆₋₃₀ aryl, C₇₋₃₀ aralkyl; C₇₋₃₀ alkaryl; C₁₋₃₀ hydroxyalkyl; C₃₋₂₀₀ polyhydroxyalkyl; polyether consisting of from 2-200 identical or different C₁₋₁₅ oxyalkylene units, wherein, if there is present more than one type of oxyalkylene unit, there shall be present at least two of each unit; C₁₋₃₀ aminoalkyl; polyiminopolyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C₂₋₁₅ alkylene units; polyiminopolyoxyalkylene having from 1-20 identical or different C₂₋₁₅ oxyalkylene units; C₃₋₃₀ quaternary ammonium, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one anion; C₄₋₃₀ betaine; carboxyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; C₄₋₃₀ polycarboxyalkyl, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; sulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; thiosulpho group, optionally completely or partially ionised with at least one cation; epoxide group; glycidyl; acrylate; C₁₋₃₀ ester; polyester consisting of from 2-200 C₂₋₁₅ diacid and diester monomer units; and esters of inorganic acids, wherein all alkyl chains are at least one of linear, branched or comprise at least one ring.